

23 June 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: 

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FROM: 

SUBJECT: The Role of DIA in the Drug War

1. Per your request, here are my views on DIA's role. DIA can provide invaluable support in the fight against drug trafficking and, in some instances, can assume a direct responsibility. The extent of their involvement within the attache system operating under existing directives I feel has been limited. Perhaps DIA's contribution in this area is overshadowed by other priorities; however, it is time that DIA undertake a review of its capabilities and assume an active role.

2. There is no question that efforts against international drug traffickers are most effective when conducted as close as possible to their points of origin. In most foreign countries, the patrolling of coastal sea and air areas is under the control of the military. Yet, I think it is safe to say that the extent of involvement by foreign military elements against drug trafficking is generally not known. Also, there is little, if any, coordination between US military or law enforcement organizations and foreign military units engaged in surveillance and interdiction.

3. The coordination and liaison with foreign military units engaged in narcotics suppression can best be carried out by our military organizations through the attache system under the direction of DIA. Further, DIA can best provide assessments of the overall effectiveness of foreign military organizations in the fight against traffickers.

4. In discussions with DIA officials to promote an increase in their efforts, I would encourage that DIA consider the following:

a. DIA should undertake a complete review of its capabilities as related to the narcotics problem with a view to strengthen its role.

b. Establish a special unit at Headquarters to direct narcotics-related matters.

c. Initially, provide an assessment of the capabilities, extent of involvement and commitment of foreign military elements in each major source country in their efforts against drug trafficking.

d. Recommend ways in which such efforts can be improved.

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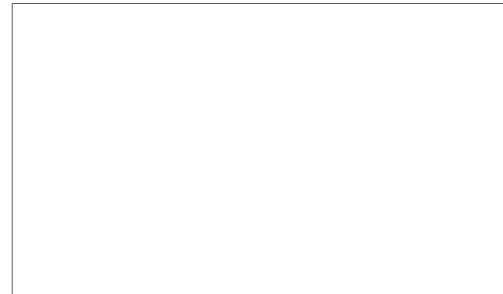
e. Assume an active if not a lead role in promoting and coordinating foreign military efforts directed against drug traffickers.

f. Maintain a close working relationship with US law enforcement and supporting US military elements to assure and facilitate coordination with foreign military elements as appropriate.

g. Provide reports to the community periodically and upon request, as to the status and effectiveness of foreign military efforts against traffickers.

h. Participate in current efforts within DoD to identify and make available US military assets which can provide needed information and intelligence gathering support to the law enforcement effort and assist in efforts to assure the most effective utilization of the assets provided.

5. Colombia is an excellent example of how the US military attache in Colombia could have played a more active role in 1979 when the Colombian military undertook a major campaign against the drug growers and traffickers. Perhaps it might have succeeded had the US military been involved.



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